


REMARKS

This office action is responsive to a Board decision that **affirmed** the Examiner's rejections of Claims 1-7, 9-12, 16-19, 21 and 22, **and reversed** the Examiner's rejections of Claims 13-15. The Board decision stated explicitly that the the cited prior art **does not** provide a sufficient suggestion or motivation to employ the particular material(s) recited in Claims 13-15 to form the claimed monolithic open cell foam support useful for an autothermal reforming process (see page 15 of the Board's decision).

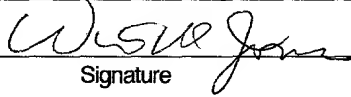
Claims 2, 3, 10, 12 and 16-18 have been amended herein to depend from previously amended and allowable Claim 13, thus rendering these claims allowable also. Claims 19, 21 and 22 have been amended to incorporate the open cell foam support materials therein which are recited in Claim 13. Since the Board has explicitly held that the recitation of such support materials has rendered Claims 13-15 allowable, it follows that the recitation of the same support materials in amended Claims 19, 21 and 22 renders those claims allowable also.

In view of the post Board decision amendments to the claims, Claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 16-19, 21 and 22, as amended, are allowable. In summary, Claims 2, 3, 10 12-19, 21 and 22, as amended, are allowable. Early notice to that effect is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

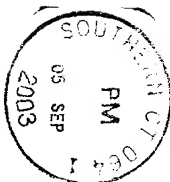

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